



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Department of Human Services
DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY,
FINANCING AND PURCHASING
600 New London Avenue
Cranston, R.I. 02920

August 2008

Dear Provider,

Phase II of the Tamper Resistance Prescription Requirements as set forth by Public Law 110-28 goes into effect October 1, 2008. At that time, all fee-for service Medicaid prescriptions that are either handwritten or printed from an EMR/e-prescribing application must contain at least one feature from each of the three categories of tamper resistance. The three categories are: 1) One or more industry-recognized features to prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form; 2) One or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber; and 3) one or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms. Please refer to the back of this letter for further description of each category and recommendations from DHS for compliance.

This requirement only applies to prescriptions that are handwritten or computer printed by the prescriber. Prescriptions communicated electronically from the prescriber to the pharmacy through either e-prescribing or fax, telephoned into the pharmacy or a refill of a prescription written prior to October 1, 2008 are exempt. Emergency fills for prescriptions which are not written on compliant prescription pads are permitted as long as the prescriber provides a verbal, faxed, electronic or compliant written prescription within 72 hours after the date the prescription was filled. This law applies to all out-patient covered drugs, including over-the-counter drugs, where Medicaid is either the primary or secondary payer. Prescriptions for beneficiaries paid for by a managed care plan are also exempt.

Please refer to the DHS website at www.dhs.ri.gov for further information and answers to Frequently Asked Questions, FAQs, on this subject. If you have any further questions, please contact Paula Avarista, RPh, Chief of Pharmacy, at 401-462-6390 or pavarista@dhs.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank A. Spinelli".

Frank A. Spinelli
Acting Medicaid Director

Category	Feature	Description
Category 1: Copy Resistance	Void/Illegal/Copy hollow pantograph with or without reverse Rx	The word Void, Illegal or Copy appears when the prescription is photocopied. A reverse Rx or other distinguishable watermark appears on the reverse of the prescription.
	Micro print signature line for prescriptions generated by an EMR	Very small font which is legible when viewed at a 5x magnification or greater and illegible when copied
Category 2: Erasure/Modification Resistance	An erasure revealing background for written prescriptions or printed on "toner-lock " paper for laser printed prescriptions	Background that consists of a solid color or consistent pattern that has been printed on the paper
	Border characters for quantities and refills that prevent tampering	Quantities and refill # are surrounded by special characters such as asterisks to prevent modification, e.g. QTY**50**.
Category 3: Counterfeit Resistance	Security features and descriptions listed on the prescription	A complete list of the security features on the prescription paper (or printed by EMR) to aid pharmacists in identification of features implemented on the prescription